

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 32-34 and allowability of claims 18-19.

Claims 9-17, 20 and 21 stand rejected, either alone or in combination with other references, by Sakamoto (U.S. Pub. App. No. 2002/118326). Independent claim 9 has been amended to overcome this reference by incorporating the features of claim 10 and to more clearly describe the invention. In particular, the claims have been amended to recite that the wrinkle-like unevenness is in a directional pattern and it extends mainly in a vertical or transverse direction on the display surface of the liquid crystal device.

Sakamoto discloses a display having an irregularly patterned mesh shaped projection on the display surface (§48). Sakamoto describes the projection as being “irregularly configured” (§20). Sakamoto does not disclose that this projection forms a directional pattern extending in either the horizontal or vertical direction on the display plane of the liquid crystal display device.

According to amended claim 9, the wrinkle-like unevenness has a plurality of protrusions. If these protrusions are arranged in parallel with each other, the wrinkle can be formed continuously and periodically on the surface of the unevenness.

As a practical matter, the mesh-like configuration disclosed in Sakamoto cannot have the same wrinkle features. In the case of Sakamoto, the wrinkle can only be formed partially inside areas divided by the projections 94 in the mesh-like configuration.

Because of the fine mesh-like configuration of Sakamoto, each of the areas divided by the projections 94 is too small. Therefore, it would be difficult to form the wrinkle inside each area. This is because a somewhat large area is necessary for forming the wrinkle.

Moreover, Sakamoto et al. describe projections 94 which “exhibit an irregularly patterned mesh-like structure” [¶ 48]. The mesh-like structure of the projections 94 is shown, for example, in Fig. 4A. The mesh-like structure has at most one projection extending from the top end of one other projection, but this does not suggest the present invention, because the figure taken as a whole shows an unordered mesh-like structure, as described in the written description of the reference.

In contrast, the wrinkle-free unevenness of the present invention creates an ordered pattern, as seen in Fig. 18 of the present specification, for example. This ordered pattern is achieved in part by extending the linear portions from the ends of other linear portions, where two portions connect. Thus, this feature of the present invention is not disclosed or suggested by Sakamoto.

Similarly, the other references cited by the Examiner [Sugiura (U.S. Pub. App. No. 1004/145689) and the Applicants’ prior art disclosure], either alone if in combination, do not disclose or suggest a wrinkle-like unevenness having a directional pattern, the wrinkle-like unevenness extending primarily in either horizontal or vertical direction on the display plane of the liquid crystal display device. Accordingly,


withdrawal of the rejections of claims 9 and its related dependent claims 10-21, is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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